WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Import Levy on Basmati Rice

*326. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Economic Community (EEC) have reduced or propose to reduce the import levy on basmati rice;

(b) if so, its impact on the import of Indian rice by the E.E.C. countries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the export of Indian rice to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The European Community has in place a concessional levy scheme whereby imports of basmati rice into the EEC member states are given a 25% concession on normal levy subject to a ceiling of 10,000 tonnes per annum. This concessional levy scheme which has been in place since 1986 was extended by the EC for a further period of five years in July, 1991.

(b) Since there has been no change in the EC import regime vis-a-vis basmati rice and the scheme will continue till July, 1996, no impact on the import of Indian basmati rice to the EC countries is expected.

(c) The import of basmati rice to the EC countries has been sustained by the exports of Indian producing and exporting community. The exports of Indian basmati rice to the EC countries have increased from approx. 18,000 tonnes in 1986 to 30,000 tonnes in 1990. This trend is expected to continue with the popularisation of Indian basmati rice amongst community consumers.

Jobs to Ex-Servicemen

*327. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to augment the job opportunities for ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of officers and jawans who are yet to be given jobs as on December 31, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Government have taken various steps to provide employment to the ex-Servicemen. These, *interalia*, comprise reservation of posts in the Central/State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings, relaxation in the maximum age limit for appointment to the reserved as well as unreserved posts and relaxation in the requisite qualifications for ex-Servicemen. To accelerate the pace of absorption of ex-Servicemen in civil jobs, Ecological Task Forces, consisting exclusively of ex-Servicemen, have been raised in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan. The Directorate General of Resettlement also sponsor ex-Servicemen for employment in Security Agencies, Coal Transport Companies etc. The monitoring cells in each Ministry/Department of the Central Government and in some of the State Govts supervise the implementation of the reservation policy. A variety of programmes are also conducted for providing training to enhance the skills/expertise of ex-Servicemen in various trades to improve their employability as well as self-employability.

(b) About 50,000–55,000 Armed Forces personnel are released every year and about 16,000 – 17,000 are absorbed each year in civil posts either directly or through the Employment Exchanges, ZSBs, RSBs and the Directorate General of Resettlement. In view of the limited availability of jobs and the inclination/preference of ex-Servicemen to secure jobs near to their native places in the rural areas it is not possible to provide employment to all ex-Servicemen.

(c) As per the figures on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges/ZSBs/ DGR, as on 1.1.91, about 2.6 lakh ex-Servicemen registrants were awaiting employment.

Gold and Non-Gold Jewellery

*328. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit of gold and non-gold jewellery which can be taken out of India by the travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) and (c). The existing and the revised limits of gold and non-gold jewellery which can be taken out of India by the travellers are as under:–

	Type of jewellery	*Country*	*Existing value limit*	*Revised value limit*
(a)	Gold jewellery: Personal jewellery made wholly or mainly of gold worn on person or forming part of personal baggage	All countries	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 1 lakh
(b)	Precious stone or non-gold jewellery i.e. jewellery other than articles made mainly or wholly of gold.	a) Afghanistan, Iran, Gulf countries in the Mid–East	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-
		b) Any other country	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 1 lakh